



Council Meeting for the Election of the Mayor

Minutes

Friday 8 November 2019

Council Chamber
Hobsons Bay Civic Centre
115 Civic Parade, Altona

HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL



THE COUNCIL'S MISSION

We will listen, engage and work with our community to plan, deliver and advocate for Hobsons Bay to secure a happy, healthy, fair and sustainable future for all.

OUR VALUES

Respectful

Community driven and focused

Trusted and reliable

Efficient and responsible

Bold and innovative

Accountable and transparent

Recognised

Council acknowledges the peoples of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of these municipal lands and waterways, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Councillors:

Cr Tony Briffa	Cherry Lake Ward
Cr Sandra Wilson	Cherry Lake Ward
Cr Angela Altair	Strand Ward
Cr Peter Hemphill	Strand Ward
Cr Jonathon Marsden	Strand Ward
Cr Colleen Gates	Wetlands Ward
Cr Michael Grech	Wetlands Ward

Aaron van Egmond
Chief Executive Officer
Hobsons Bay City Council

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HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting Minutes

8 November 2019

Minutes of the Council Meeting Held on Friday 8 November 2019 at 7:05 pm in the Council Chamber, Hobsons Bay Civic Centre, 115 Civic Parade, Altona.

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS:

Cr Tony Briffa	Cherry Lake Ward
Cr Sandra Wilson	Cherry Lake Ward
Cr Angela Altair	Strand Ward
Cr Peter Hemphill	Strand Ward
Cr Jonathon Marsden	Strand Ward
Cr Colleen Gates	Wetlands Ward
Cr Michael Grech	Wetlands Ward

OFFICERS

Mr Aaron van Egmond	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Andrew McLeod	Director Corporate Services
Ms Penelope Winslade	Director Sustainable Communities
Mr Sanjay Manivasagasivam	Director Infrastructure and City Services
Ms Diane Eyckens	Manager Corporate Integrity
Ms Jennifer Legge	Acting Manager Strategic Communications
Ms Martina Simkin	Governance Advisor
Ms Briony Davis	Governance Officer/Minute Secretary

1 Council Welcome

The Chief Executive Officer welcomed members of the gallery and acknowledged the people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of this land.

A particular welcome was extended to former Councillor and Mayor Leigh Hardinge OAM and Jenny Carter, partner of former Mayor and Councillor Dick Murdoch. The Chief Executive Officer also welcomed current Citizen of the Year Marilyn Oliff and Nick Oliff and former Citizens of the Year Lesley Ould OAM, George Said, Geoff Mitchelmore OAM and Olga Mitchelmore, Ralph Humphries, Barry Hanson and Chev. Joseph Attard and Jane Attard.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that in accordance with Clause 11 of the *Meeting Procedure and Common Seal Local Law* 2015, he will be the temporary Chairperson for proceedings relating to the election of the Mayor.

2 Apologies

Motion

Moved Cr Jonathan Marsden, seconded Cr Colleen Gates:

That Council receives and accepts an apology from Cr Michael Grech.

Carried unanimously

3 Mayoral Focus – End of Term Report

Directorate: Corporate Services

Councillor Portfolio: Not applicable

Appendices: Nil

Purpose

To update Councillors and the community on the areas of focus of the Mayoral Term 2018-19 of Mayor Cr Jonathon Marsden.

Motion

Moved Cr Jonathan Marsden, seconded Cr Angela Altair:

That Council notes the Mayoral Focus End of Term Report for Cr Jonathon Marsden.

Carried unanimously

Summary

Following the Mayoral election in November 2018, Council elected Cr Jonathon Marsden to lead the Council as Mayor for the 2018-19 Mayoral Term.

Following his election as Mayor, Cr Marsden determined that his mayoral activities would focus on caring for our neighbours, managing Council finances, defending democracy, making decisions in the public interest and engaging with the cycling and walking communities. This report outlines the areas of particular focus and provides an update on activities achieved throughout Cr Marsden's Mayoral term.

Background

The Mayoral Program provides an opportunity for the Mayor of the Day to support key actions focusing on particular areas of interest and need while serving in the best interest of the Hobsons Bay community. For the 2018-19 Mayoral Term, Cr Marsden demonstrated a strong interest in community engagement, developing advocacy and community health and wellbeing, and a strong focus on sustainable transport within Hobsons Bay.

Discussion

Reconciliation Action Plan

Strengthening existing relationships with the community as well as developing and maintaining new relationships by creating opportunities for genuine engagement was an important focus for this Mayoral Program.

Council broadly promotes all engagement, communications and opportunities to the whole Hobsons Bay community, through a variety of channels including email, e-newsletters, posters at key community hubs, and so on. This approach has resulted in members of our Indigenous communities being made aware of and invited to engage with a range of Council projects



throughout the current Mayoral term. The Mayor has personally engaged with our Indigenous communities through a number of project and activities.



The Mayor spent time with Balit Gulinya (meaning 'strong people'), a Planned Activity Group for First Nations people, at the May 2019 launch of *Dreaming*, their ceramics artwork exhibition in Council's Orbital exhibition space at Central Square Shopping Centre, Altona Meadows. *Dreaming*, which ran until October 2019, comprised six artists creating works in the

spirit of First Nations dreaming, or stories. Balit Gulinya are based at the Laverton Community Hub, and ceramics workshops were held at Woods Street Arts Space in Laverton.

Also in May 2019, as part of Heritage Hobsons Bay, the Mayor joined representatives of the Boon Wurrung and the 4th Williamstown Sea Scouts in their Cultural Day, and the naming of the SSS *Gurrong*. Permission had been granted for the Scouts to use the word 'gurrong', meaning 'canoe' in Boon Wurrung language, to foster a deeper understanding of our shared histories.

Council's performing arts program *Arts At Your Doorstep* brought Jessie Lloyd to the Williamstown Town Hall during NAIDOC Week in July 2019, for her moving Mission Songs Project, *Songs From Back Home*.

Under the Reconciliation Action Plan a clear acknowledgment of significant Aboriginal sites was constituted.

Dean Stewart, a proud Wemba Wemba Wergaia man who developed the *Lost Lands Found* installation at Logan Reserve, Altona, near the Altona Homestead. *Lost Lands Found*



comprises a small plot that is planted with endemic flowering grasslands and surrounded by a post rail fence. The installation enables the community to consider what the landscape was like before colonisation and appreciate the rich biodiversity of grasslands while acknowledging their demise over the past 200 years, with less than one per cent remaining. The Mayor has been able to reference the work in its early stages through media and speaking opportunities. The

Mayor joined the Laverton Aboriginal Planned Activity Group Members alongside Mr Stewart for a special talk about the project while the flowers were in full bloom.

The Mayor joined a new group of locals passionate about shared history as they researched the story of the Message Tree in Williamstown. The group presented their work and made recommendations to further celebrate and acknowledge this shared history on site. The group received a community grant for this work.

Water

Another focus of the Mayoral Program for the 2018-19 period included maintaining and promoting the health of Hobsons Bay's waterways through enhanced advocacy.

The Mayor sought to maintain strong alliances and worked in partnership with agencies, local business and industry to improve communication with the community, drive better outcomes for waterway management and enhance advocacy for improvements to our waterways.

Council engaged with this focus area by commencing the Hobsons Bay Coastal Management Plan, reviewing the Climate Change Adaptation Plan, and completing the Draft Drainage Asset Management Plan, including a gross pollutant traps strategy and program.

In addition, litter traps have been installed in upgraded outfall drainages to ensure a reduction of litter flowing into the bay. Council has also succeeded in securing Living Rivers funding to undertake further feasibility investigations for a Cherry Creek stormwater harvesting system, which will address litter and water quality.

Sustainability

A number of significant sustainability initiatives and milestones were achieved.

Recycling reforms. In March 2019, Council endorsed the Waste and Litter Strategy 2025, and shortly after this Council's recycling provider SKM shut down. In response to the recycling crisis, actions from the Waste and Litter Strategy 2025 were accelerated, and in October 2019 Council endorsed a significant reform to improve recycling outcomes from Hobsons Bay kerbside recycling. The program will commence over the coming summer season. Cr Marsden represented Hobsons Bay in a range of consultative forums and panels with the State Minister for Environment, as well as representing Hobsons Bay at the Parliamentary Inquiry into Waste and Recycling.

Reducing Council's carbon emissions. Significant milestones were achieved to meet Council's objective to achieve zero net emissions. In particular, in October 2019, Council endorsed an exciting program to bring forward the roll out of solar panels across the majority of Council buildings over the next two years (43 buildings). Procurement will be underway before Christmas. Council also signed up to the Victorian councils' Power Purchasing Agreement process to purchase renewable power for the electricity Council requires from the grid into the future (estimated at around 30 per cent of today's usage, following the roll out of solar panels and building retrofitting).

On 5 June 2019 at the Substation, Newport, The Mayor hosted Tidal, a World Environment Day symposium that explored themes of climate change and the intersection between art and science. The stellar panel at this well attended evening session was chaired by Jenny Martin, senior lecturer in Science Communication at the University of Melbourne, and comprised artist Yandell Walton, whose work at The Substation was presented as part of the Art+Climate=Change festival; Wain Fimeri, award winning local filmmaker and creator of the documentary *Tidal*; and Blanche Verlie, associate lecturer at RMIT University.

Council participated in a world-first trial in partnership with the University of Melbourne to use mangroves to protect our foreshore from erosion. One of the aims for this project is to raise awareness of nature-based systems which can be used to defend our coastline.

Cr Marsden hosted the celebration event for the Future Leaders for Sustainability program. This Australia-first partnership between the CSIRO, Council and Hobsons Bay's secondary colleges, now in its second year, tasks students with identifying local environmental problems and finding STEM based solutions using an open-inquiry approach to learning. Students who successfully completed the program were awarded with a Bronze CSIRO Creativity in Research, Engineering, Science and Technology (CREST) award and brought a youth perspective to some local environmental issues that Council is currently facing.

Good Land Management Practices

Part of the Mayoral Program incorporated exploring opportunities to foster relationships with lead agencies such as CSIRO and investigating ways in which to work with industry and businesses.

Council is working with organisations in the remediation of their land. In addition Council has the benefit of an embedded Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) officer as part of the Victorian Government's Officers for the Protection of Local Environment (OPLE) pilot program. The OPLE officer works across the Hobsons Bay and Brimbank municipalities to address landowner and environmental issues.

Foreshore Upgrade Works

The last 12 months has also been a busy time for works in foreshore areas. Stage 1 of the PA Burns Reserve upgrade in Seaholme was completed with a new alignment of the shared trail, the installation of a bridge, access paths, dune rehabilitation and fencing. The works provide improved access to the popular dog beach whilst removing the conflict of dogs walking across the popular shared trail. Other works include the construction of maintenance vehicle access ramps onto the foreshore in Altona at Bent Street, and works are nearing completion on pedestrian access ramp onto the foreshore at Millers Road in Altona.

Last summer, an extensive consultation process was undertaken with residents and visitors to help shape the future development of Council's Marine and Coastal Management Plan. A significant response was received which will help Council shape the development of this plan as it progresses. Preliminary designs for future foreshore works has also progressed including pedestrian access ramps at Mount Street and Webb Street in Altona, seawall upgrades in Altona and improvements to rock walls and access ramps at Cyril Curtain and Hatt Reserve in Williamstown. Keep an eye out for information on these projects in the future.

Air

Council is investigating partnering with or lending support to EPA initiatives such as air monitoring. This may include advocating to the Victorian Government to increase funding to the OPLE pilot program currently underway.

Transport

A key objective was to increase bicycle riding as a mode of transport and, in particular, highlight the need for increased bicycle infrastructure. Council is proud to showcase the great bike paths across the city and promote cycling as a great way f to get around and take in some lovely natural settings while gaining natural health benefits.

The Mayor's involvement included building alliances with cycling groups, continuing advocacy on Parkiteer secure bike parking stations, and introducing bike maintenance stations into the municipality.



Council hosted the inaugural Mayoral Bike Ride on Sunday 31 March 2019, which invited community members to ride along the Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail and hear about the local flora and fauna, as well as information about the cycle ways of Hobsons Bay and how to use them.

A second Mayoral Bike Ride on 2 June 2019 coincided with the World Environment Day festival and traversed the Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail from the Esplanade, Altona to the Altona Coastal Park and back.

A third Mayoral Bike Ride was conducted on 11 August 2019, taking in the Friends of Greenwich Bay conservation event, a tour of the Timeball Tower and exploration of the Jawbone Marine Park.

The Mayor also championed Ride2Work Day and Ride 2School Day across the municipality as part of efforts in raising awareness of the benefits of cycling.

Council organised a Ride2School Day event in partnership with Spotswood Primary School for 2019. The students met the Mayor at Donald McLean Reserve for a chat about the joys of cycling, bicycle safety and sharing our city with cyclists. It was a successful, well attended event with approximately 60 children taking part. A similar Ride2Work Day was hosted for Altona residents and Council staff.



In partnership with Toyota Australia, and an Australian first, Council trialled three of the first Toyota Mirai hydrogen fuel cell powered electric vehicles in Australia. These vehicles emit only water vapour and do not generate any engine noise or greenhouse gases.

A total of five electric vehicles have now been introduced into the fleet and four double port 22kW EV charging stations installed within the Council fleet compound in Altona to support their use. In addition a 50kW DC fast EV charger has also been installed adjacent to the compound and is available for public use.



Creative Technology Hub

Engaging young people and older adults in skill development for educational and employment opportunities is the mandate for the Creative Technology Hub (CTH) project delivered in partnership with the Seaworks Foundation. Now part of the infrastructure of the Maritime Precinct on the waterfront at Williamstown, the CTH offers opportunities for our community to learn about 3D design and printing, robotics, coding, green screen film technology and Augmented Reality.

Harnessing creative technologies for community-led projects sits alongside programs delivered by the Hobsons Bay Libraries staff. Weekly drop-in sessions are offered for the community to try out and master a range of technologies. Fostering skills for volunteers who have a passion and interest in the rich Maritime history of the area will also activate the static collection of the

Seaworks Maritime Museum.

As a public – private partnership project both philanthropy (Gandel) and State Government (Living Libraries funding) have joined with businesses including Toyota, Raeco, and AV Jennings, together with Council and Seaworks, to deliver a project that will have significant community impact and address specific needs identified in our municipality.

Whilst the Hub is now operational, with a soft opening at the end of October, it will be officially launched early next year when the new entrance laneway off Nelson Place has been made fully accessible for all abilities.

4 Election of Mayor

The Chief Executive Officer invited nomination/s for the Office of Mayor for 2019-20.

Nominations for the Office of Mayor for 2019-20

Cr Colleen Gates was nominated by Cr Angela Altair.

The Chief Executive Officer stated that, as there were no further nominations, Cr Colleen Gates is duly elected Mayor of the Hobsons Bay City Council for 2019-20.

The Mayor was robed by the Chief Executive Officer and presented with the Mayoral Jewel of Office.

The Chief Executive Officer invited Cr Colleen Gates to take the chair at the head of the Council table and offered congratulations. The Mayor chaired the remainder of the meeting.

5 Mayoral Response

Cr Gates acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land upon which Council meets and acknowledged the special guests in attendance including former Councillors and Mayors, former and current Citizens of the Year, family and other members of the Gallery, Council directors, and fellow Councillors.

In thanking Council for their support and confidence in her to lead, Cr Gates acknowledged the diverse range of interests and qualifications across the team, an extensive knowledge base that helps significantly in Council's decision making for the community. She expressed her pride in being part of such a dynamic group.

Cr Gates thanked the Chief Executive Officer and staff for their work and ongoing support.

Outlining the Mayoral Program, Cr Gates highlighted open space, community connectedness, and innovation as key areas of focus. Noting that the Hobsons Bay community treasures its coastline, parklands and sports fields, Cr Gates expressed her desire to focus on how Council and community can protect, enhance, and share these spaces. She cited the dog off-leash park in Brooklyn, expansion of pedestrian and cyclist shared trail networks, and greater protections for migratory birds as current examples of such collaboration.

In speaking on community connectedness, Cr Gates acknowledged volunteer groups as the glue in the Hobsons Bay community, people whose passion, hobby or interest leads them to connect with others and give their time freely to make a difference. Cr Gates expressed a desire to showcase not only well-recognised, successful local groups such as the Men's Shed and Boomerang Bags, but also lesser-known groups such as Walking Basketball in Altona Meadows and the volunteer snorkel and dive group who cleared underwater rubbish from Altona Pier.

On the innovation front, Cr Gates anticipated opportunities to work with younger residents to develop innovative ideas and projects for potential implementation, expanding on Council's recent work in the innovation space with projects such as the Creative Technology Hub, Council's digital transformation, and collaborations with university students on various projects.

In closing, Cr Gates invited the community to reach out to Council if they have ideas or a local experience they wish to share, and thanked Councillors again for their support in anticipation of a successful year ahead.

Cr Gates then invited other Councillors to respond.

Councillors congratulated Cr Gates on her election as Mayor, noting in particular her leadership experience, sound political skill and judgement, and her passionate championing of Wetlands Ward and the Hobsons Bay community at large.

6 Appointment of the Deputy Mayor

Motion

Moved Cr Tony Briffa, seconded Cr Angela Altair:

That Council:

1. Appoints a Deputy Mayor for the purpose of assisting the Mayor with official duties.
2. Notes that the position of Deputy Mayor is not a statutory position under the *Local Government Act 1989*, and that no additional allowance is payable.
3. Conducts the process for the election of the Deputy Mayor as described in the *Meeting Procedure and Common Seal Local Law 2015*.

Carried unanimously

7 Election of Deputy Mayor

The Mayor called for nominations for the Deputy Mayor for 2019-20.

Nominations for Deputy Mayor for 2019-20

Cr Jonathan Marsden was nominated by Cr Sandra Wilson.

The Mayor stated that as there were no further nominations, Cr Sandra Wilson is duly elected as Deputy Mayor for 2019-20.

8 Mayoral Vehicle/Travel Arrangements

Motion

Moved Cr Angela Altair, seconded Cr Peter Hemphill:

That Council provides a vehicle for the use of the Mayor and pay all associated costs or, in the event that the Mayor does not require a motor vehicle, that an amount equivalent to the mean average vehicle operating cost for a medium vehicle as published by the RACV in June 2019 be paid to the Mayor to cover all expenses associated with servicing, fuel and insurance of the Mayor's private motor vehicle.

Carried unanimously

9 Close the Meeting and Issue an Invitation to the Civic Reception

The Mayor invited all present to the Civic Reception in Meeting Rooms 3 and 4.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 7:35 pm.

Chairperson - Cr Colleen Gates

Signed and certified as having been confirmed.

10 December 2019

Procedure for the Election of the Mayor 2019-20

Local Government Act 1989

Section 90 Voting

- (1) A question before a meeting of a Council or special committee is to be determined as follows—
 - (a) each Councillor present at a meeting of the Council and each member of a special committee present at a meeting of the special committee who is entitled to vote is entitled to one vote;
- * * * * *
- (c) unless the procedures of a Council or special committee otherwise provide, voting must be by a show of hands;
- (ca) voting at a meeting that is open to members of the public must not be in secret;
- (d) the question is determined in the affirmative by a majority of the Councillors or members of the special committee present at a meeting at the time the vote is taken voting in favour of the question;
- (e) except where subsection (2) applies, if the number of votes in favour of the question is half the number of Councillors or members of the special committee present at the meeting at the time the vote is taken, the Chairperson has a second vote.
- (2) If there is an equality of votes on a question arising under section 71(1), 87(2), 87(3) or 87(4), the matter is to be determined by lot.

Meeting Procedure and Common Seal Local Law 2015

Clause 12 – Method of Voting

The election of Mayor will be carried out by a show of hands.

Clause 13 – Determining the Election of Mayor

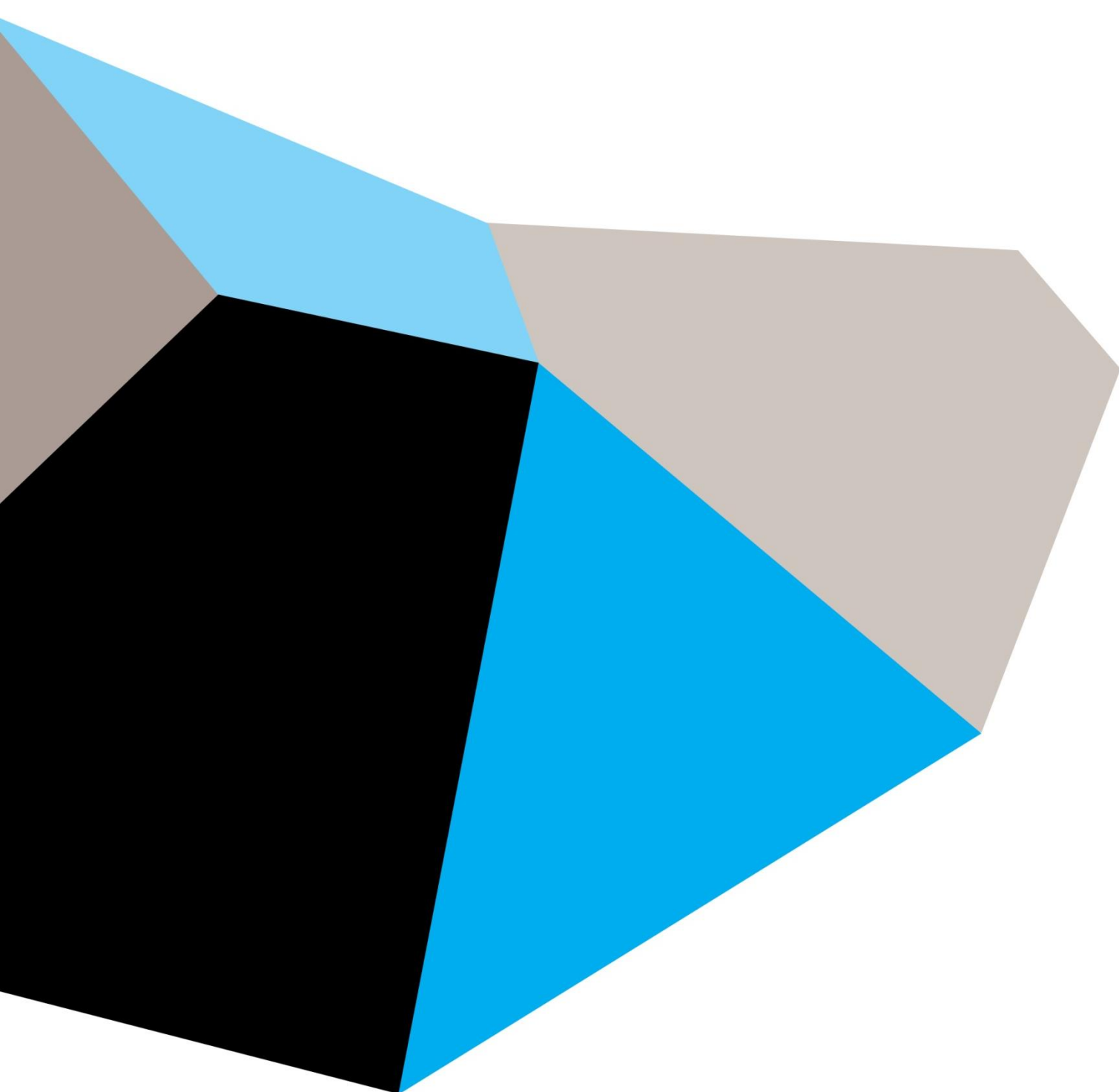
- 1. The Chief Executive Officer will invite nominations for the office of Mayor.
- 2. Any Councillor is eligible for election to the office of Mayor.
- 3. Nominations for Mayor do not require a seconder.
- 4. Any Councillor nominated may refuse nomination.
- 5. If there is only one nomination received the candidate nominated shall be declared elected.
- 6. Where two or more nominations are received, the method of voting shall be by show of hands and the Councillor with the absolute majority of votes cast will be declared elected.
- 7. Where there are two or more nominations and all votes cast equally divided between two or more nominees, the election must be determined by lot.

8. If no candidate receives an absolute majority of votes, the candidate with the least number of votes must be eliminated as a candidate and a further poll conducted between the remaining candidates. If there are several candidates, this procedure must be repeated until a candidate receives an absolute majority of votes and that candidate shall be declared elected.
9. If for the purpose of eliminating the candidate with the least number of votes, two or more candidates have the same least number of votes, the candidate to be eliminated shall be determined by simple majority vote.
10. If there is an equality of votes with respect to the candidate to be eliminated, the candidate to be eliminated shall then be determined by lot to be conducted by the Chief Executive Officer.

Clause 14 – Determining by Lot

If a lot is required, the Chief Executive Officer will conduct the lot and the following provisions will apply:

1. Each candidate shall draw one (1) lot.
2. The order of drawing lots shall be determined by the alphabetical order of the surname of the Councillors who received an equal number of votes, except that if two (2) or more such Councillors' surnames are identical, the order shall be determined by the alphabetical order of the Councillors' first names.
3. As many identical pieces of paper as there are Councillors who received an equal number of votes shall be placed in a receptacle by the Chief Executive Officer.
4. If the lot is being conducted to determine which candidate is a defeated candidate, the word "Defeated" shall be written on one (1) of the pieces of paper, and the Councillor who draws the paper with the word "Defeated" written on it shall be declared the defeated candidate (in which event a further vote shall be taken on the remaining candidates unless there is only one candidate remaining, in which case that candidate will be declared to have been duly elected).
5. If the lot is being conducted to determine which candidate is to be duly elected, the word "Elected" shall be written on one (1) of the pieces of paper, and the Councillor who draws the paper with the word "Elected" written on it shall be declared to have been duly elected.



HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL

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